

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CONAKR 00320 011536Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /009 W
-----012216 092815 /41 R
R 011420Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2806

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 0320

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AGSP
SUBJECT: PROPOSED AF CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 019370

SUGGEST FOLLOWING TOPICS OF GENERAL POLICY INTEREST BE
INCLUDED IN DISCUSSION AT CONFERENCE EITHER AS INDIVIDUAL
AGENDA ITEMS OR AS SUBTOPICS OF BROADER HEADINGS:

(A) EXPANDING SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCE IN AFRICA-
A FEW COUNTRIES (E.G., GUINEA, SOMALIA) HAVE FOR SOME
YEARS FACILITATED SOVIET AIR AND NAVAL DEPLOYMENTS;
OTHER "PROGRESSIVE" COUNTRIES (E.G., MOZAMBIQUE, ANGOLA,
CONGO, BENIN) NOW ARE ALSO WIDENING SOVIET ACCESS.
WHAT STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS DOES THIS HOLD FOR
AMERICAN SECURITY? WHAT POLICY RESPONSE SHOULD WE TAKE?
DEFENSE DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATION WOULD BE INVALUABLE
FOR THIS DISCUSSION.

(B) HUMAN RIGHTS ARE WIDELY VIOLATED BY AFRICA'S
AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES. TO WHAT EXTENT SHOULD THIS BEAR
UPON US POLICY AND US AID, AND UNDER WHAT CRITERIA?

(C) THE MODERATES. WHAT IS THE PROSPECT FOR THE MORE
MODERATE AFRICAN REGIMES? WILL THEY BE ABLE TO STAY ON
COURSE WHEN SOME OF THE OLD MEN LEAVE THE SCENE? ARE
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PAGE 02 CONAKR 00320 011536Z

THERE PRACTICAL POLICY MEASURES THE U.S. SHOULD BE TAKING
TO BETTER REINFORCE MODERATE GOVERNMENTS AND HELP THEM
WITHSTAND RADICAL PRESSURES?

(D) THE DEBT PROBLEM -- WHAT IS THE PROSPECT? ARE
DEBT-RIDDEN AFRICAN MODERATE REGIMES ABLE TO IMPLEMENT
AUSTERITY PROGRAMS WHICH MAY BE SOCIALLY DESTABILIZING

IMPOSED BY IMF AND OTHER CREDITORS (CASES OF ZAIRE, EGYPT, SIERRA LEONE)? HOW SHOULD THE U.S. ASSIST? REPRESENTATIVES OF EXIM BANK, TREASURY AND EB WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR THIS DISCUSSION.

(E) PRIVATE INVESTMENT AND RADICAL REGIMES. IN TWO CASES (GUINEA, ANGOLA) US PRIVATE INVESTMENT IS THE MAIN FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF A RADICAL REGIME WHICH IS ESSENTIALLY HOSTILE TO THE U.S. AND COLLABORATES MILITARILY AND POLITICALLY WITH THE SOVIET UNION. SUCH COMPARTMENTALIZATION OF POLITICS AND ECONOMICS COULD BECOME A COMMON PATTERN. HOW SHOULD WE APPROACH CONTRADICTIONS OF THIS PROBLEM?

(F) AFRICA AND THE U.S. PUBLIC - TO WHAT EXTENT HAS THE INTEREST OF THE U.S. PUBLIC (BOTH BLACK AND OTHER) IN AFRICA BEEN KINDLED BY FOCUS OPON SOUTHERN AFRICAN EVENTS, ADVENT CARTER ADMINISTRATION, ANDREW YOUNG, ROOTS, FESTAC, ETC? A DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT BY WASHINGTON PARTICIPANTS WOULD BE VERY INTERESTING FOR AMBASSADORS.
HARROP

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CONAKR00320
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770070-0942
Format: TEL
From: CONAKRY
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197703106/aaaadpzu.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: af0c28ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 77 STATE 19370
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2954407
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED AF CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE
TAGS: OCON
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/af0c28ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009